



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: August 15, 2022

Re: Modifications to the City's Archery Deer Management Program

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting City Council approval to modify the ordinance related to the City's Archery Deer Management Program. The program was established by the City Council in August 2004 as a tool to reduce the number of deer-to-vehicle collisions within the City of Columbia. After discussions with staff from the Missouri Department of Conservation and members of the Columbia Audubon Society, staff is proposing the following modifications effective for the 2022-2023 archery season:

1. Staff is requesting to add a portion of Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary, 3300 West Rollins Road, to the archery deer management program with hunting dates from September 15 to January 15. Staff is proposing to allow hunting access on 44.8 acres of the property. Staff was approached by the Columbia Audubon Society about including the property in the program due to the current and future negative impacts caused by the overpopulation of deer in this area of Columbia. The park property is also a desirable location due to its proximity to Scott Boulevard, West Broadway and Fairview Road.
2. Staff is requesting to remove the MKT Nature Area – Scott Boulevard Access property, located at 3800 Scott Boulevard, from the archery deer management program due to the construction of the MKT Wetlands capital improvement project. On July 19, 2021, the City Council approved the MKT Wetlands construction project and staff has started on the construction of the wetland cells in this location. After completion of the capital improvement project, staff will evaluate if this 43-acre property could be added back to the program for the 2023-2024 bow hunting season.

Discussion

The City Ordinance #18197 that established an archery deer management program was passed by the City Council in August 2004 in response to numerous resident communications related to safety and property damage caused by deer, including deer-vehicle collisions. The City's program establishes guidelines to be followed by anyone wishing to bow hunt for deer on permitted City property, including the requirement for hunters to attend an orientation and registration session prior to the start of the bow hunting season. During the training session, hunters are made aware of the rules and regulations associated with the program and any site-specific policies. Individuals that successfully attend the session are given a permit card that is to be carried with them while they hunt and a larger placard to display in their vehicle while it is parked on city property. The City's deer management program coincides with the dates set for the state of Missouri deer hunting season by the



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Missouri Department of Conservation, beginning September 15 and concluding on January 15. Any hunter participating in the City's program is required to report harvested deer to the City of Columbia so accurate records can be kept for the program. Individuals can do this via an online portal on CoMo.gov or via phone. Any information needed by individuals participating in the program or the public related to the City's archery deer management program can be found on CoMo.gov.

Hunters must follow all Missouri Department of Conservation regulations and the following City of Columbia Regulations:

1. No hunting or field dressing shall be allowed within 100 feet of private property, City building, parking lot or trail.
2. No four-wheelers or other motorized vehicles are allowed to be used in connection with hunting on City property.
3. Hunters must be a minimum age of 15 years old to hunt without direct supervision of an adult.
4. Tree stands shall be allowed subject to the following restrictions:
 - a. Only portable tree stands may be used.
 - b. Stands may be in place for the period beginning 15 days before archery deer season and ending 15 days after archery deer season.
 - c. Stands must be identified with the full name and address of owner.
 - d. Nails, screw-in steps and any other material that would damage a tree shall not be used.
 - e. Minimal tree trimming in connection with tree stands shall be allowed only as expressly permitted by the Parks and Recreation Director or department head's designee.

The 2021-2022 deer management program included hunting on all or a portion of the following City properties:

1. Grindstone Nature Area – southern portion of the park property
2. MKT Scott Boulevard Area & Jay Dix Station
3. Thomas E. Atkins Jr. Memorial Park – northern portion of park property
4. Gans Creek Recreation Area – southern portion of the park property
5. Strawn Park
6. Sewer Utility Property – Coats Lane
7. Sewer Utility Property – Bainbridge Drive
8. Oakland Church Road Property
9. Sanitary Landfill – Peabody Road Area

There are two other locations within the city limits of Columbia where hunters may use archery methods for deer hunting. Hinkson Woods Conservation Area near Twin Lakes Recreation Area is under the jurisdiction of the Missouri Department of Conservation and Waters-Moss Memorial Wildlife Area is managed by Columbia Parks and Recreation with the understanding that traditional hunting guidelines will always be in conjunction with Missouri Department of Conservation rules and regulations.



Effective for the 2022-2023 bow hunting season, park staff is proposing the following modifications to the ordinance:

1. Staff is requesting to add a portion of Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary, 3300 West Rollins Road, to the archery deer management program with hunting dates from September 15 to January 15. Staff is proposing to allow hunting access on 44.8 acres of the property. Staff was approached by the Columbia Audubon Society about including the property in the program due to the current and future negative impacts caused by the overpopulation of deer in this area of Columbia. The park property is also a desirable location due to its proximity to Scott Boulevard, West Broadway and Fairview Road.
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The training sessions for the 2022-2023 archery deer management program are scheduled for 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 8 and for 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 13 at the Activity & Recreation Center (ARC).

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Miscellaneous small dollar costs for new signs will be absorbed by the operating budget.

Long-Term Impact: None

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Safe Neighborhoods, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Environmental Management, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
08/04/2014	Ordinance #22158: Amending Ordinance #18197 that established an archery deer hunting program. https://www.como.gov/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=14517



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08/19/2013	Ordinance #21782: Amending Ordinance #18197 that established an archery deer hunting program. https://www.como.gov/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=10402
08/17/2009	Ordinance #20387: Amending Ordinance #18197 that established an archery deer hunting program. https://www.como.gov/CMS/codemaster/attachment.php?ordid=18290
08/15/2005	Ordinance #18652: Amending Ordinance #18197 that established an archery deer hunting program. https://www.como.gov/CMS/codemaster/attachment.php?ordid=15342
08/16/2004	Ordinance #18197: Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it pertains to hunting in city parks; establishing an archery deer hunting program. https://www.como.gov/CMS/codemaster/attachment.php?ordid=14587

Suggested Council Action

Approve the legislation amending Ordinance #18197 with the recommended changes to the City's Archery Deer Management Program.